

The Master Machiavellian

VOL. I

#4

A P. - B.O.M.S. P

10 December 1974

Dispatchio di Machiavelli

Greetings, to all who read these words, whether you be of high station or low, a prince of new dominions, a king of ancient family, or but an ambitious man, may you receive benefit from prescribing your ways by these words, and pleasure from the accomplishments thereof:

In this edition is located The Master Machiavellian's second diplomatic variant, this one entitled, "Senatus PopulusQue Romanus." Activities take place primarily within the confines of the Roman Empire at approximately A.D. 120 and thereafter.

The plot is predominantly historical. Reminiscent of the Triumvirates from whence emerged the first of the emperors of Rome following a long period of bloody civil wars, six Imperial Roman Prefectures, those of Italia, Aegyptus, Asia, Gaullia, Macedonia, and Mauretania, have each designated their commanding Centurion to ascend the vacant Imperial throne. Unfortunately, though each prefecture believed itself to be the sole such nominator, they soon discovered that all have done in a like manner. And since each Centurion is supported by the military might of his prefecture, the resulting wars of succession inevitably ensue.

No one centurion can obtain the throne by himself, thereby forcing the various centurions to work together, up to a certain extent. It is here where the careful manipulation of military forces and diplomatic policies bear their greatest weight, and where, I am certain, the one prince who most closely follows my principles on the subject will clearly prevail. A contest of S.P.Q.R. will be commensurated upon obtaining the proper number of princes.

In addition, this printing includes the first in an extensive series of treatises by a contributing prince, Timothy Lee, on the subject of the history of the Second World War's violent "Desert War," including complete coverage of the British Western Desert Force and the German Deutsches Panzerarmee Afrika Korps. This series will be continued in following editions of this publication.

I hope that you will be both stimulated and enriched by this publication. I know that through The Master Machiavellian you will gain greater command over the qualities of the lion and of the fox, of force and of fraud.

Niccolò Machiavelli
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1974HQ PLAYERS NOTE: What's happened to your press? -- Staff

STAFF AND INFO

The Master Machiavellian is a gamezine of postal DIPLOMACY, its variants, and other wargames. Subs are 12 for \$2.50. Game fee is \$1.00, and does not include a sub. TMM is pubbed (ostensibly) every fourth Tuesday . . . DIPLOMACY, copyright Games Research Inc., 500 Harrison, Boston, MA 02118, was invented by Allan B. Calhamer. -- Please make all checks payable to Michael George Homeier.

STAFF = Editor-in-Chief, Financial Editor: Michael George Homeier; game adjudications: Jonathan Reich; publicity agent: David H. Calvert; contributing sources: Gus Ferguson and Timothy Lee.

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TMM Postal DIPLOMACY game #1 will from now on be known as 1974HO.

1974HO

AUSTRIA AND ENGLAND FIRST TARGETS

Spring 1901

~~AS NEW ALLIANCES GO ON THE OFFENSIVE~~

AUSTRIA(Kissner): F Tri-Alb, A Vie-Tri, A Bud-Gal.
ENGLAND(Zimmerman): F Lon-Eng, F Edi-Mch, A Liv-Wall.
FRANCE(Osheroff): F Bre-Eng, A Par-Pic, A Mar-Spa.
GERMANY(Fujihara): F Kis-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh.
ITALY(Ferguson): F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Apu, A Ven H.
RUSSIA(Swabeck): F StP(sc)-Bot, F Sev-Rum, A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal.
TURKEY(Lucero): F Ank H, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con.

--Okay, you guys: Jon Reich, you nice hard-working GM says that due to the educational necessities of high school that he will be unable to take orders or press over the telephone. Since the next issue should come out about the tenth of January (that's a Tuesday, isn't it?), all orders must be received, not postmarked, by the previous Saturday so I can cram them onto one of these pages -- that should be the fourth. In case you noticed, I just realized that the seventh of January is the Tuesday. Also, do send in some press; articles by subbers are more than welcome! Jon's address again: 1443 Jonesboro Drive, L.A., CA 90049. -- NGH
PRESS:

Constantinople Clarion, 27 January 1901: "The Sultan announced today that, effective 1 Feb., all forms of Christianity will hereby be permitted within the Empire. Anyone who continues to persecute or discriminate against Christians will be duly prosecuted. It is hoped that the other nations of Europe will accept this token of the Sultan's good will, and act accordingly."

"The purpose of my moves is purely defensive," announced the King-Emperor of Austria-Hungary, "I assure you." (That's what they all say - NM)

Smyrna Daily News, 30 Feb. 1901: "The Sultan's war minister announced today that a conference to discuss arms limitations will be held here sometime in October of 1901. An open invitation is hereby extended to all European nations to attend. It is the sincere wish of his Imperial Majesty that all nations will work together toward a lasting peace in the world."

--ONCE AGAIN (AND BECAUSE I BLEW IT UP THERE), #5 PRINTING DATE 7 JAN.

DAS DEUTSCHES AFRIKA KORPS: HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

by Timothy Lee

PART 1. Afrika Korps. A name and a legend: Rommel, the Desert Fox... swirling sands across the horizon...the Gazala Gallop...dreaded panzers racing over the desert, churning up long plumes of dust...Tobruk... the Desert Rats of the 8th Army...infallible Monty...the hot sun burning down on the trackless plain...El Alamein. Afrika Korps. These are the handful of names, places, and descriptions of the bloody, see-saw Desert War that have captured the imagination of the public, an image that survives to this very day.

But what really was the Afrika Korps? Why were they there? And who were they?

Let the facts speak for themselves.

On 13 September 1940 the Italian 10th Army under the command of Marshall Rodolfo Graziani launched il Duce Mussolini's offensive into British-controlled Egypt. Over 225,000 strong, Graziani's seven divisions were supported by 300 aircraft of varying quality, and several hundred matchbox tanks. Opposing them were the men of the Western Desert Force -- 36,000 British and Dominion troops backed by 150 aircraft and 300 light, cruiser, and infantry tanks.

Due to a woeful state of supply, extreme overcaution, inadequate equipment, and general incompetence, the Italian offensive petered out 60 miles inside Egyptian territory along the coastal plain following the Italian captures of Sollum and Sidi Barrani. The Italians established a series of fortified camps along the front line, and dug in. A stalemate of several months followed, with small British forces continually harassing the Italian positions.

Outnumbered four-to-one, the Western Desert Force had retreated in the face of the Italian advance while awaiting further reinforcements. Then, on the ninth of December 1940, the British struck back. The attacking forces were comprised of the British 7th Armored Division (the "Desert Rats"), the Indian 4th Infantry Division, and a hastily-assembled infantry brigade named "Selby Force."

The British commander, General O'Connor, realizing the extreme overall numerical superiority of the enemy, decided to use his more mobile forces to make concentrated surprise attacks on the Italian forts, thus achieving local numerical superiority in the process. Medium tanks infiltrated between the Italian positions, devastating the rear areas, while infantry supported by heavy tanks assaulted the camps.

The force and shock achieved by the British attack helped to weaken enemy resistance. Many Italian units gave up without a fight when they found themselves being overrun by enemy tanks and infantry; others put up a stiff fight before abruptly surrendering. The British continued to roll west; on 11 December, Sidi Barrani was reoccupied; on 16 December, Sollum fell. Now it was the Western Desert Force that was invading enemy territory. The Italian fortresses of Bardia and Tobruk surrendered on 5 January and 22 January 1941, respectively. On 29 January, Derna was captured; on 6 February, the capital of Italian East Libya, Benghazi, capitulated.

In a bold maneuver, the desert-seasoned British 7th Armored Division was sent across the base of the hump of Cyrenaica toward Beda Fomm, neatly cutting off the only road of retreat for those Italian units still fighting in Cyrenaica. When the Battle of Beda Fomm was over, 25,000 Italians were prisoners, and numerous equipment and sup-

(CONT. NEXT PAGE)

plies fell into British hands.

When the "O'Connor Offensive" ended with the capture of El Agheila on 9 February 1941, the men of the Western Desert Force had scored one of the most incredible victories of the Second World War: advancing 500 miles in 61 days, they had virtually annihilated between seven and ten divisions of the Italian 10th Army, taken 130,000 prisoners, captured 180 medium and over 200 light tanks, had recovered 845 guns from the retreating enemy, and had occupied all of the Italian province of Cyrenaica.

Der Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, looked with apprehension at the deteriorating situation in North Africa. If the British continued their advance into Tripolitania, there was nothing that the Italian Army or their German allies could do to stop them. In February 1940 Hitler had agreed to support Mussolini's North African offensive with German military assistance; now it became a matter of saving what could be saved of the crumbling Italian Empire.

A German armored corps was needed; the necessary men and equipment would be drawn from forces earmarked for Hitler's invasion of the Balkans. The former commander of the German 7th Panzer Division, Erwin Rommel, became the commander of the new two-division unit, now designated Das Deutsches Afrika Korps.

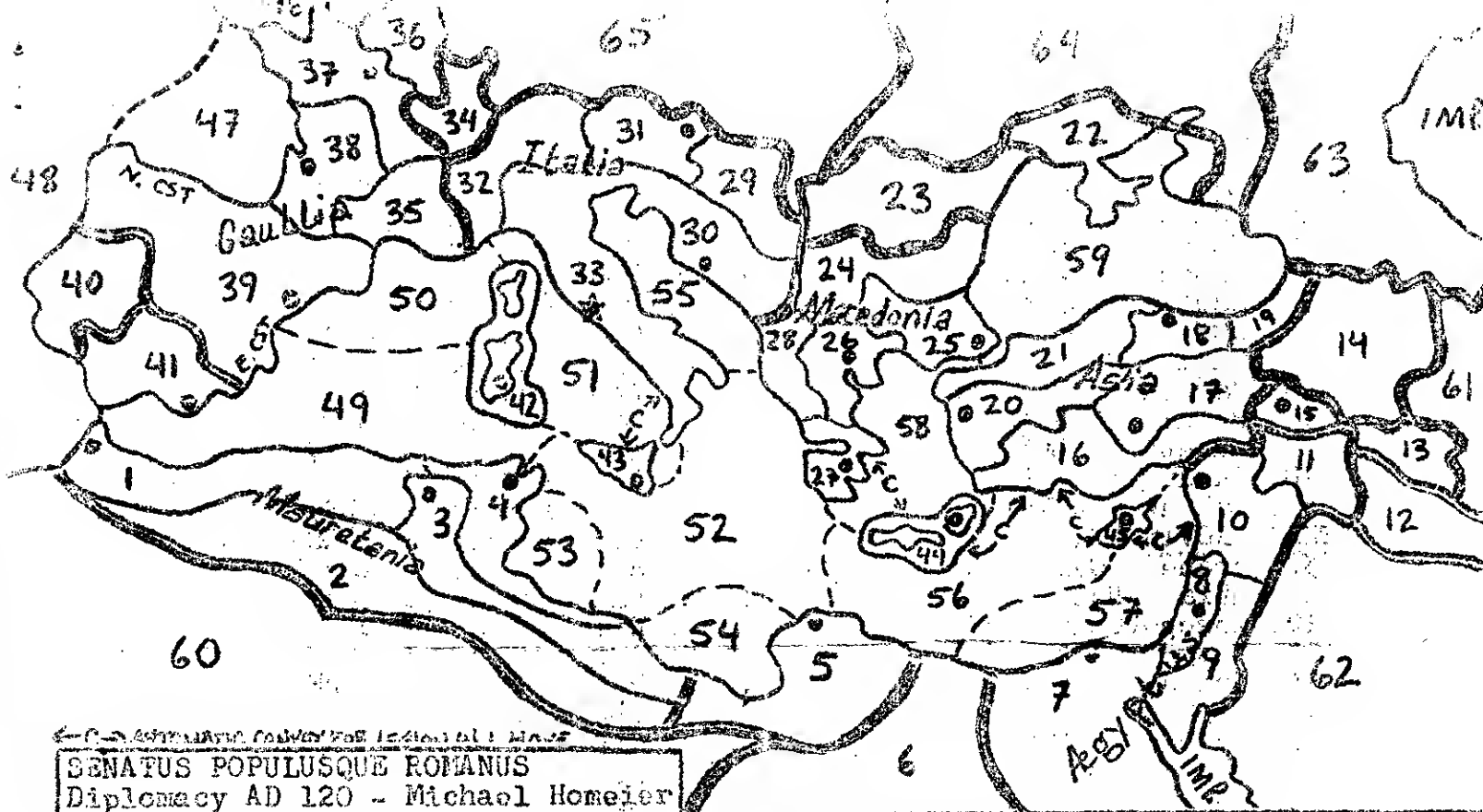
On 14 February the first contingents of the D.A.K. arrived in Tripoli. It was the German 5th Light Panzer Division, composed of two tank battalions totaling 150 tanks, three infantry battalions, artillery, and the 3rd Motorized Reconnaissance Battalion. Together with the newly-arrived Italian Ariete Armored Division and four low-grade Italian infantry divisions, Rommel was to defend Tripolitania from British assault.

General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief British Middle Eastern Forces, had dispersed the desert veterans of the lately-captured O'Connor, the infantry to commitments in Greece, the armor to rest and refit in Egypt. A new Australian infantry division, an inexperienced British 2nd Armored Division, and an Indian infantry brigade were all that the British had in Cyrenaica, and even that was organized into piecemeal formations all across the Libyan desert.

Rommel lost no time in taking to the offensive. The German 5th Panzer Regiment had arrived in Africa on 19 March; on 31 March, Rommel and the D.A.K. counterattacked at Marsa Brega, one of the few narrow regions of the desert guarding the entrance to the vast open spaces of Cyrenaica. Against all common sense, Rommel split his meager forces into a three-pronged assault, with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and the Brescia Italian Infantry Division advancing along the coastal highway to Benghazi, while the 5th Light Panzer and Ariete Armored divisions swung along the interior of Cyrenaica, squeezing the British 2nd Armored Division between the prongs. The Australian 9th Infantry Division retreated from Benghazi, garrisoning itself in the former Italian fortress of Tobruk. Meanwhile, the mobile German and Italian forces came out of the desert and drove the Indian 3rd Infantry Brigade from Mechili, and the Axis coastal force, after occupying Benghazi unopposed on 4 April, outflanked and captured Derna on 17 April.

The watchword of the day was retreat for the British from Cyrenaica and continuous pursuit by the German and Italian armed forces. But Rommel's first offensive was hardly over yet . . .

(PART I, The Early War in the Desert, and PART II, Men and Equipment of the D.A.K. to be continued next issue.)



SENATUS POPULUSQUE ROMANUS RULES:

RULES: As in DIPLOMACY Rulebook 1971ed. except for the following ---

- 1) Six players are required, each to play a Prefecture.
 PREFECTURE START ITALIA = T Sab, L ROM, L Vin
 POSITIONS: Gallia = T Val(e.c.), L Bur, L Lut
 Mauretania = T Car, L Lam, L Tin
 Asia = T Pon, L Per, L Cae / T = trireme
 Macedonia = T The, L Byz, L Cor / fleet;
 Aegyptus = T Ale, L Ant, L Jer / L = legion
- 2) There are four moves to a year; thus, Winter retreats and Spring moves, Spring retreats and Summer moves, Summer retreats and Fall moves, Fall retreats and Winter moves, Yearly Builds.
- 3) Fleets in ROMA, Corinth, Byzantium, and Bithynia are considered to be at any point along the coast.
- 4) A legion may pass from ROMA to Sicilia, from Corinth to Rhodes, from Cilicia to Rhodes, from Cilicia to Cyprus, and from Antioch to Cyprus in one move.
- 5) Caesarea, Osroene, and Armenia border Sophen; Cilicia does not.
- 6) Winner must control 13 supply centers. First move Spring A.D. 120.

LAND PROVINCES:

A. Mauretania

1. Tingis - Tin
2. Caetulia - Gae
3. Lambaesis - Lam
4. Carthage - Car

B. Aegyptus

7. Alexandria - Ale
8. Jerusalem - Jer
9. Arabia Petraea - ArP
10. Antioch - Ant
11. Osroene - Osr

C. Asia

16. Cilicia - Cil
17. Caesarea - Cae
18. Pontus - Pon
19. Lesser Armenia - Les
20. Pergamum - Per
21. Bithynia - Bit

D. Macedonia

24. Moesia - Moo
25. Byzantium - Byz
26. Thessalonica - The

- 27. Corinth - Cor
- 28. Epirus - Epi
- E. ITALIA
- 29. Pannonia - Pan
- 30. Sabnae - Sab
- 31. Vindobona - Vin
- 32. Raetia-Alpina - RAl
- 33. ROMA - ROM
- .. Gaulia
- 35. Narbonensis - Nar
- 36. Belgica - Bel
- 37. Lutetia - Lut
- 38. Burdigala - Bur
- 39. Valentia - Val
- OTHER PROVINCES:
- 5. Cyrene - Cyr
- 6. Nubia - Nub
- 12. Mesopotamia - Mes
- 13. Assyria - Asy (1)
- 14. Armenia - Arm
- 15. Sophene - Sop
- 22. Taurica - Tau
- 23. Dacia - Dac
- 34. Lower Germany - LoG
- 40. Lusitania - Lus
- 41. Carthago Nova - CNo

PASSABLE ISLAND AREAS:

- 42. Sardinia - Sar
- 43. Sicilia - Sic (from ROM)
- 44. Rhodes - Rho (from Cor and CAl)
- 45. Cyprus - Cyp (from Cil and Ant)

OCEAN SPACES:

- 46. Channel - Cha
- 47. Cantabrian Sea - Can
- 48. Atlantic Ocean - AtO
- 49. West Mediterranean - Wes
- 50. Ligurian Sea - Lig
- 51. Tyrrhennian Sea - Tyr
- 52. Ionian Sea - Ion
- 53. Lesser Syrtis - LSy
- 54. Greater Syrtis - GSy
- 55. Adriatic Sea - Adr
- 56. East Mediterranean - Eas
- 57. Nile Delta - NiD
- 58. Aegean Sea - Aeg
- 59. Pontus Euxinus - PEu

IMPASSABLE AREAS:

- 60. Africa ; 61. Asian States
- 62. Persian Empire
- 63. Arabia
- 64. Scythian Tribes
- 65. Germanic Barbarians

* * * * *

COLONIA: DIPLOMATIC CONFLICT ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE

A new variant has come my way, Colonia, by Fred Hyatt. Although I haven't had the opportunity to play this variant yet, I fully intend to over the holiday break from the slave camps. I have, however, looked into it rather extensively, and I feel confident to say that we will be offering games in this variant.

Colonia covers in its scope the entire world at about 1750 (check me on that, Fred). Colonia has eight players, all of whom maintain considerable overseas colonies and empires; they are Austria, England, France, the Netherlands, the Ottoman Empire, Portugal, Russia, and Spain.

The best part about this interesting variant is that, due to the vast colonial empires, the player is given the extra intricacies of conducting coordinated military moves and diplomatic ventures in different theaters of operations, instead of just Europe.

So, if there are any amongst you out there interested in playing a good world-wide diplomacy game, Colonia is now ready. However, due to the extensive maps the game fee must rise to \$1.50, but with Colonia, I think that it's well worth the extra fifty cents.

The Master Machiavellian
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